

House International Relations Committee
Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats
Statement of Chairman Elton Gallegly

Markup of H. Res. 499 (Klebnikov)

November 16, 2005

The second item on the agenda today is the consideration of House Resolution 499, a resolution condemning the murder of American journalist Paul Klebnikov on July 9, 2004, in Moscow and the murder of other members of the media in the Russian Federation. House Resolution 499 was introduced by Congressman McCotter. I commend Mr. McCotter for his work on this legislation and I strongly support its passage.

On July 9, 2004, Paul Klebnikov, the editor-in-chief of the Russian edition of Forbes magazine was shot ten times outside his office building in Moscow. As part of his work, Mr. Klebnikov had developed into one of the foremost experts on the intersection between organized crime, politics, law enforcement and big business in Russia. Unfortunately, the murder of Paul Klebnikov is not an isolated attack on members of the press. In the past six years alone, twelve journalists have been murdered in the Russia Federation.

House Resolution 499 condemns this brutal crime and urges the Russian government to protect members of the press working and living in Russia.

I urge the passage of this resolution. I will now turn to Congressman Wexler for the purposes of making a statement.

(After Mr. Wexler makes statement, turn to Mr. McCotter for a brief statement on his resolution.)